



Nebraska Department of Education

500 S 84th St. Second Floor ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska ♦ 68510

Frequently Asked Questions about the Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism (NSoBL)

1. What is the Nebraska Seal of bilingualism?

The Seal of Bilingualism is an award given by the State of Nebraska in recognition of high school students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

2. Why should I apply for the Nebraska Seal of Bilingualism?

The Seal of Bilingualism will be reflected on a student's high school transcript. The Seal honors students' bilingual proficiency and serves as evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices nationwide. A list of Universities and Colleges in Illinois and Missouri that acknowledge the Seal of Bilingualism (Including the NSoBL) is [here](#).

Now, the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), the University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK), and Doane University are in the process of recognizing and attaching credits to the NSoBL.

[Easyway International LLC](#) is the only business that recognizes the NSoBL. The non-profit organizations that recognize the seal include *Shaanxi Commerce Representative Office* and *Midwest U.S. Commerce Representative Office of Weinan City*. If your business and organizations are interested in supporting the NSoBL, please contact Chrystal Liu at chrystal.liu@nebraska.gov

3. Who Should Apply?

Any multilingual high school student who can demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one language other than English.

4. How frequently can students apply?

There are two rounds of applications each year. The application deadline for the spring round is April 15th and for the fall round is August 15th. More rounds are being discussed and updates will be posted whenever it is ready.



5. How to apply?

Students should study the language and obtain the required proficiency level before completing the application. The application is available online through the World Language Pages on the NDE website.

6. What are the proficiency levels for the NSoBL?

NSoBL has two levels: the gold and the silver levels. The gold level is awarded to students with an intermediate-high level of proficiencies in two or more languages. The silver level is awarded to students with an intermediate-low level of proficiencies in two or more languages. For more details please check this [webpage](#).

7. Why districts and schools should support students to apply the seal?

Districts can adopt the seal so that the seal is recognized on the transcript. The NSoBL is acknowledged in many other states. Many universities and colleges in Illinois and Missouri have attached retroactive credits to the seal, which means that students with the seal get retrospective credits for the novice level courses for the seal free of charge – without paying for the courses.

8. What should this look like on a transcript? Is there an actual GIF or JPEG or similar graphic that is to be included? Or will this just look like a block of text mentioning any seals for the student?

We provide a seal (see the pictures at the end of this document) that can be attached to students' diplomas. Students will also get a confirmation email claiming they are awarded the Nebraska Seal of Biliteracy (NSoBL).

9. How many biliteracy seals can one student attain?

Students can attain the seal for each language in which proficiency is demonstrated. There is no limit to the number of languages that can be endorsed.

10. Do we need to store the assessment used in determining proficiency?

Schools or districts do not need to store assessments to be used in determining proficiency. There is a list of approved national assessments with the required score for the seal on this website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy-proficiency-levels/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy-assessment-requirements/>



11. Do schools need to show proficiency levels (silver, gold) on the transcript?

No, the proficiency level is measured with the required assessment score. Schools do need to provide official transcripts for students using the 30 credit hours in their application. For more details, please check this [webpage](#).

12. Are all districts qualified for the Seal of Biliteracy?

All schools, public and private, may choose to adopt the Seal of Biliteracy through their established policy process. However, students may also apply for the seal without district recognition. The application process was meant to enable students who were, for any reason, unable to apply with the assistance of the school.

13. Can a student qualify if English is a second language?

English learners are encouraged to apply for the seal. They will have to demonstrate proficiency in the native language as well as English. It is beneficial for students to have instruction, access to materials, and resources in their native language for this purpose.

For more information, please visit this website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/worldlanguage/nebraska-seal-of-biliteracy/>

You can find a flyer about the NSoBL here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/151S_Qe8IXkvtaHrwxZdv1YHGcfhOJuod/view?usp=sharing



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